polypeptide having portion of SEQ ID NO:1. The Examiner also noted that Fleurbaaij "does not specifically teach that the isolated polypeptide has VEGF antagonist activity" (at page 7 of the Office Action) and that "there is no specific teaching of the claimed polypeptide (the portion of SEQ ID NO:1 is equivalent to SEQ ID NO:23 on page 121 of Feleurbaaij et al) with a pharmaceutical carrier including a carrier that is acceptable for topical application to the skin or application to the eye" (at page 8 of the Office Action).

Applicants have added new claims 15 and 16 to further define the portion of the construct that possesses VEGF antagonist activity.

Applicants respectfully submit that Fleurbaaij et al. use VEGF peptides in a conjugate with cytotoxic agents as a targeting moiety, whereas Applicants use peptides (without conjugates) as antagonists of VEGF binding to receptors. Fleurbaaij et al. define a "cytotoxic agent" as "a molecule capable of inhibiting cell function...cell growth, differentiation or proliferation or be toxic to cells..." (Fleurbaaij et al., at page 6, lines 8-9) and a "conjugate" as a "molecule that contains at least one VEGF moiety and at least one targeted agent that are linked directly or via a linker..." (ibid., at page 6, lines 4-5). Fleurbaaij et al. further teach at page 11, lines 8-11, that the VEGF peptides of SEQ ID NOS: 16-24 retain the requisite receptor binding and internalization activities, which indicate a targeting moiety. Because Fleurbaaij et al. only teaches the use of the polypeptides as part of a "conjugate", it cannot be suggestive of using the peptide of SEQ ID NO:1 alone in a pharmaceutical composition. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Fleurbaaij et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Early and favorable action is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to discuss any matters that would expedite allowance of this application.

Date: June 10, 2002

Customer No.: 26248

Respectfully submitted,

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Inventor(s):	Klagsbrun M., et al.	Group:	1642
Serial No.:	09/579,420	Examiner:	Nickol, Gary B.
Filed:	May 25, 2000		
FOR:	PEPTIDE ANTAGONISTS OF VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR		

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/US98/26103 filed on December 9, 1998, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/069,687 filed December 12, 1997 and 60/069,155 filed December 9, 1997.

On page 10, lines 9-11, please replace the last sentence to read as follows:

These derivatives were prepared to contain the first cysteine residue of exon 8 at the C termini to keep an even number of cysteine residue as is shown in SEQ ID NO: 19.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) An isolated polypeptide having a portion of SEQ ID NO:1 having VEGF antagonist activity, wherein said portion includes amino acids 22-44 of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 [claims 1, 2 or 3] and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.